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Building urban climate resilience through public health: Identifying strategies for integrated public health governance in Duran, Ecuador

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Mercy J. Borbor-Cordova¹, Anna M. Stewart-Ibarra², Indira Nolivos¹, Gladys Rincon¹,
Ashley Casierra¹, Craig A. Johnson³, Alessandro Pezzoli⁴

^[1]Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral, ESPOL, Guayaquil, Guayas, Ecuador, ^[2]Center for Global Health and Translational Science and Department of Medicine, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, United States, ^[3]Department of Political Science, University of Guelph, East Guelph Ontario, ON, Canada, ^[4]Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino, Torino, Italy

INTRODUCTION

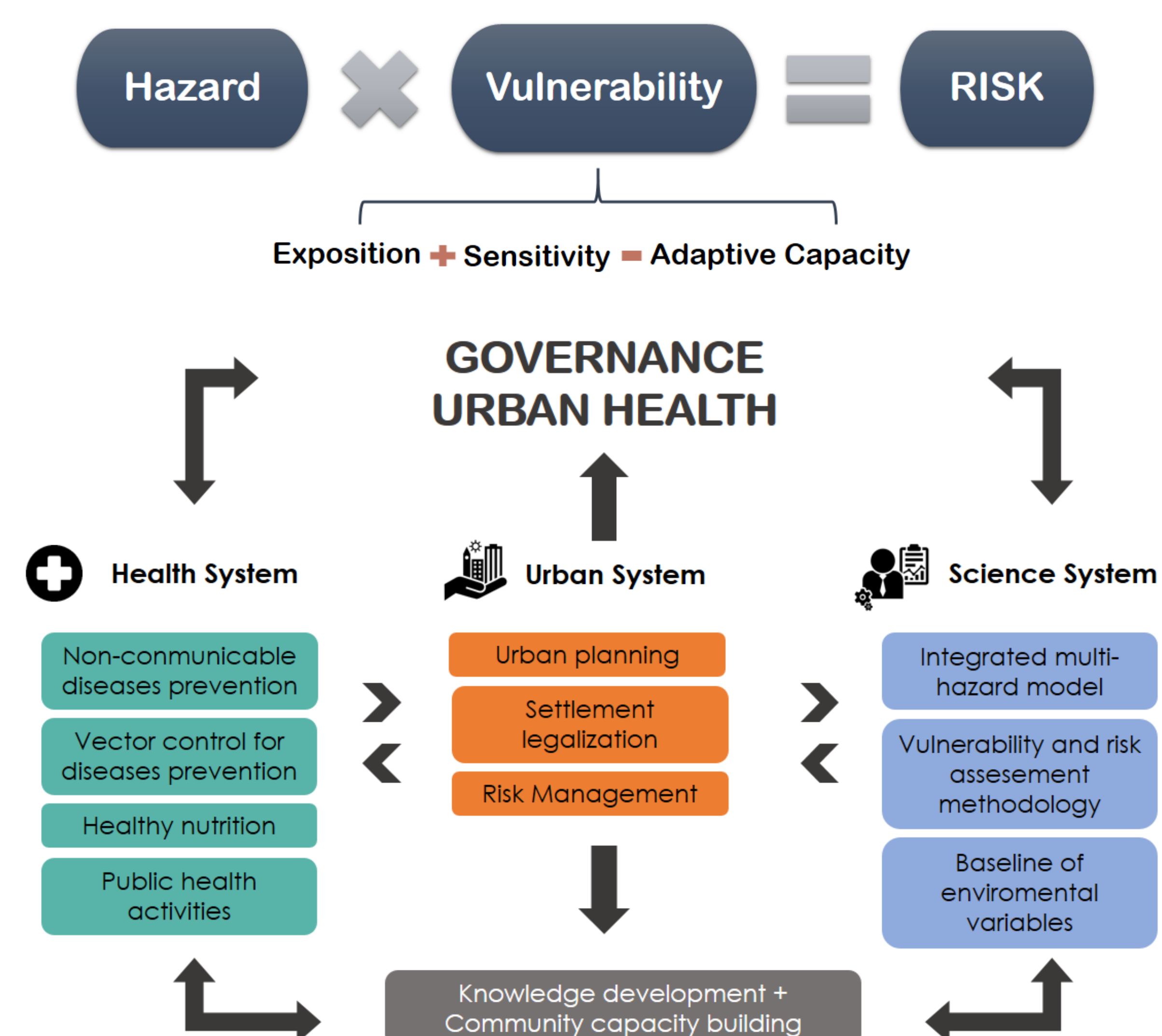
We present the Case Study of Duran, Ecuador, a coastal city of 235.000 inhabitants which are exposed to annual flooding events that increase the risk of vector-borne and other infectious diseases. Duran is an industrial satellite city of Guayaquil, the largest city of Ecuador, with a rapid population growth that lead to a large area of informal settlements on the city. Applying an integrated climate risk management and urban health focus, we assess the Duran strategies for reducing vulnerability to flooding, landslides and heat waves through a collaborative inter-sectoral approach among the health, urban, and scientific actors. Stakeholder engagement between municipality and researchers are providing evidence and building knowledge to implement “low regret” adaptation strategies and community active participation.

Population	Urban (hab, %)	Rural (hab, %)
Male	116,485 (49.4%)	
Female	119,314 (50.6%)	
Total	235,800	4716 (2%)

Population density : 4000 hab/Km²

METHODOLOGY

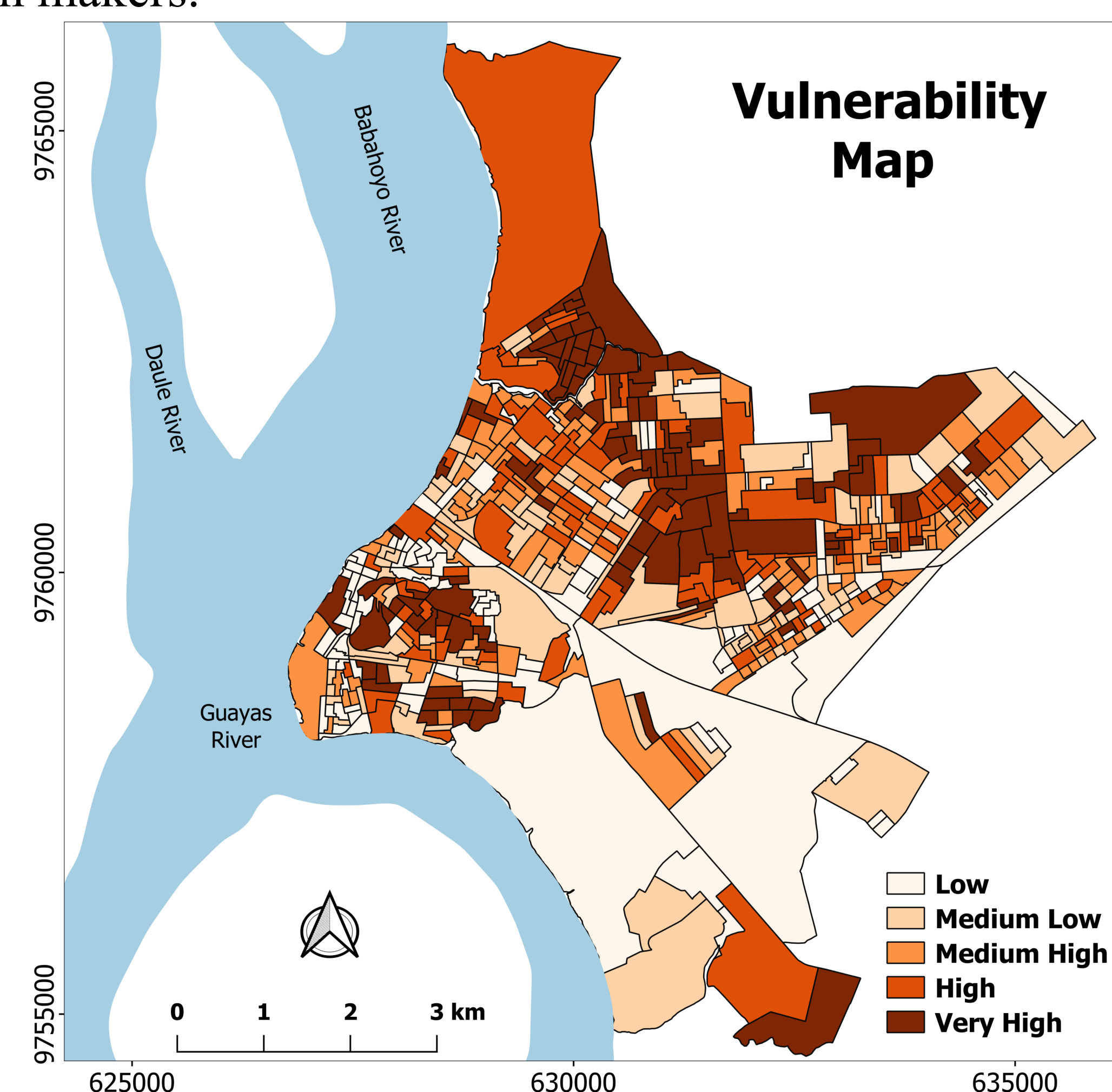
Different phases involve this study; 1) Mapping hazards of flooding and urban heat island, 2) Assessing the socio-ecological vulnerability of Duran, 3) Identifying strategies through “low regret” for urban government and community participation. Applying a framework of governance for urban health among three systems: health, urban, and science system. A cross cutting process of capacity building and knowledge development is bringing the evidences for enhancing the urban health and the community practices for the resilience of the city stakeholders.



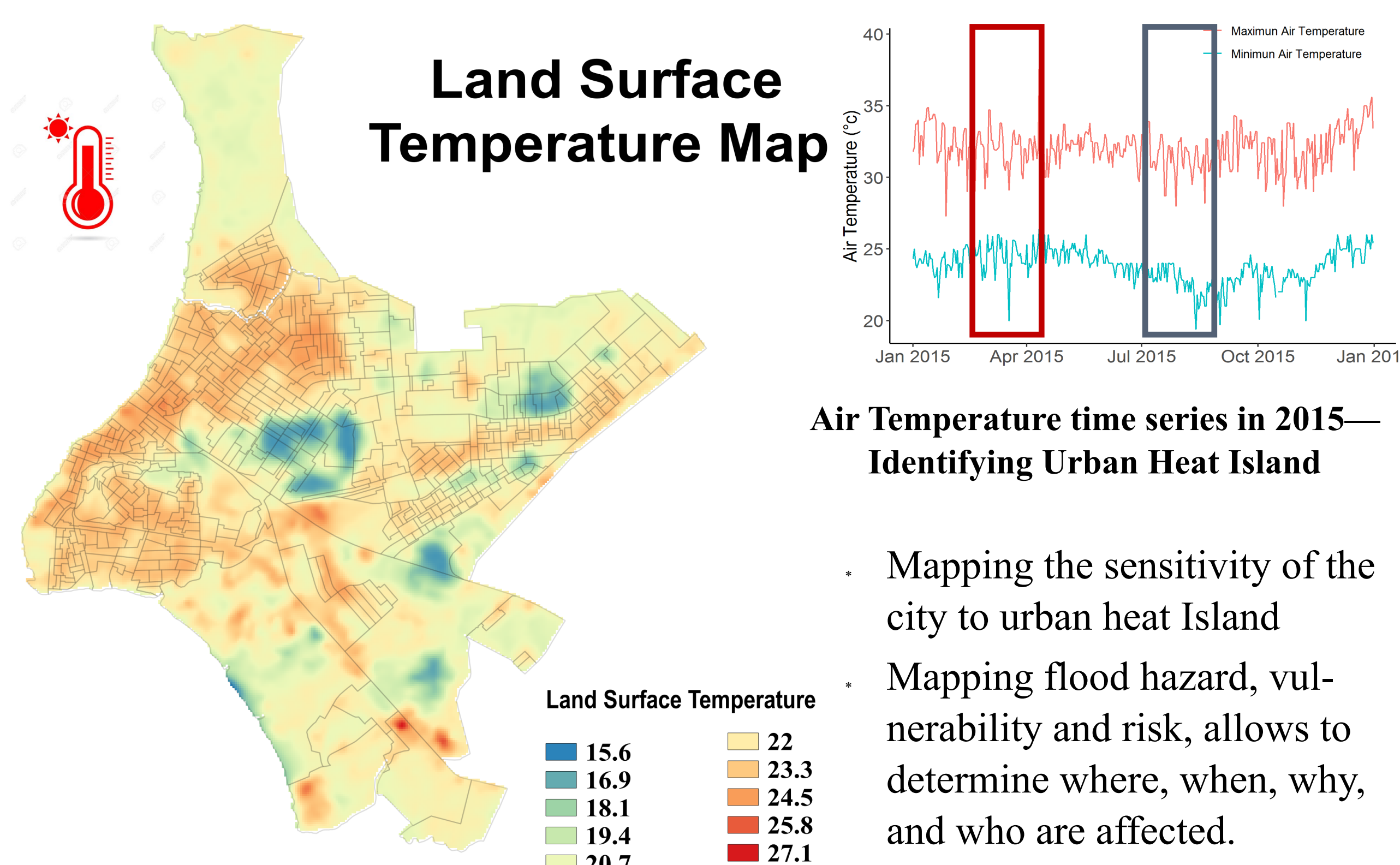
RESULTS

Urban governance among 3 sectors developing “low regret” strategies to reduce the vulnerability and impacts on human health:

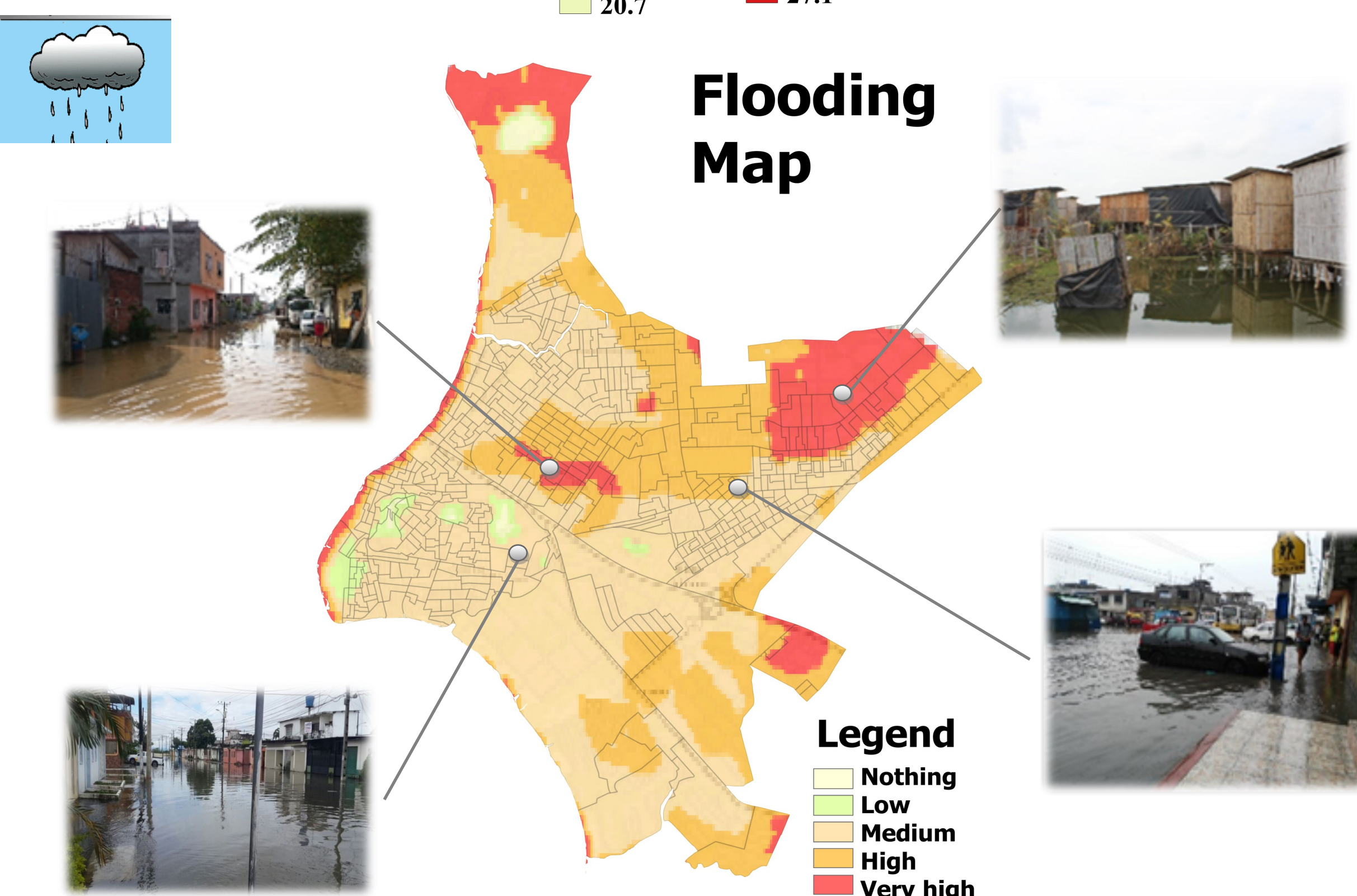
- Duran Resilience, a **Municipal Project**, targeting informal settlements to legalized slums and improve basic infrastructure.
- Health Promotion and Community engagement, a **Ministry of Health Project**, to manage vector-borne diseases, healthy nutrition, and Non Transmissible Diseases.
- Climate resilience, a **University Research project**, integrating urban data, health information, vulnerability, hydro climatic risks in a technological– visualization platform transferred to urban and health decision makers.



Land Surface Temperature Map



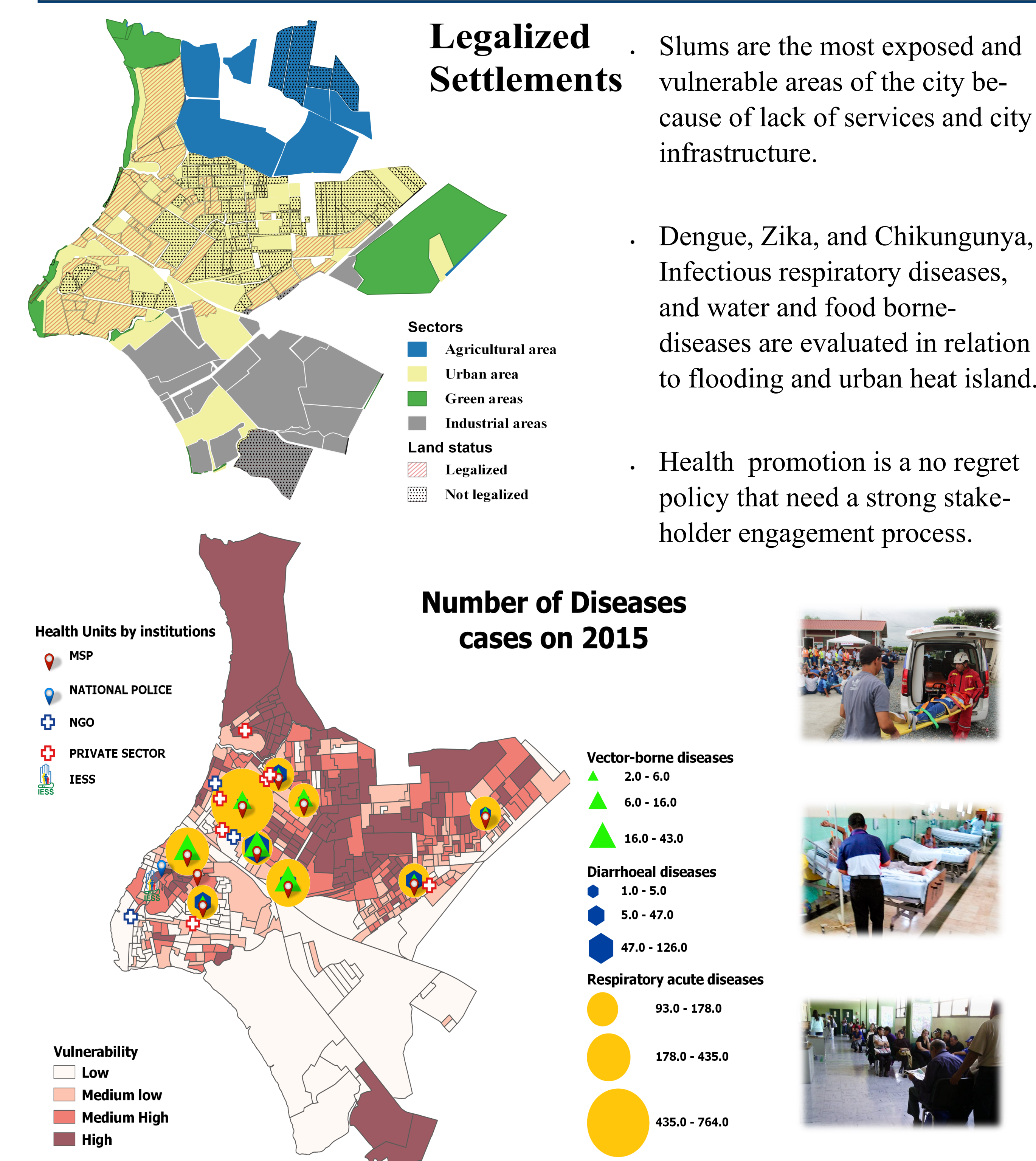
Flooding Map



KEY MESSAGES

- Cities can be leaders in assuming political responsibilities for *no regret* measures.
- Disaster Management and Adaptation to Climate Change can determine synergistic measures that improve Urban Health.
- Spatial Planning and Climate Services for Urban Health are processes that need to build in scientific knowledge and community engagement.

URBAN STRATEGIES



CONCLUSIONS

- Duran Municipality (local government) make the decision to legalize informal settlements as measure to increase resilience of the community facing hydroclimatic risks.
- Ministry of Health (national government) investing in health promotion to prevent climate sensitive diseases.
- Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral (local university) is translating scientific knowledge to enhance urban resilience to different

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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